

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The reaction of the east-zone populace to the Big Four conference held in Geneva in July 1955 has been mixed. Some persons have been offended because the West was apparently impressed by Soviet "histrionics". The pessimism of others was confirmed by the intransigent attitude of the Soviet delegation and by their uncompromising behavior during their second visit to East Germany (en route back to the Soviet Union). To the more optimistic, the fact that the Geneva meeting was held, the planned visit of Chancellor Adenauer to Moscow, and the conference of foreign ministers scheduled for October 1955 represent opportunities for peaceful and free unification of Germany.

2. the Soviet leaders gained prestige at Geneva, which is likely to influence the opportunists and the weaker elements of the East German population in favor of the existing régime. The leaders of the régime have been encouraged by the second visit of the Soviet delegation, and their concern about the future of the SED and of the East German state has been largely dispelled.

3. The reaction of public opinion in the West is probably regarded by the East German authorities as a success in their psychological war against the West. These authorities must regard with satisfaction Western commentaries which suggest that the cold war is ending, with the implication that resistance against Communist expansion will be relaxed.

4. To take advantage of the general desire of Germans for reunification, the Russians have invented a new slogan to commit the population to the régime and to facilitate the infiltration of West Germany. In contradiction to the former propaganda about the "starvation" of West Germany, the East Germans are now being called upon to join the struggle for reunification in the ranks of various Communist-front organizations on the ground that after reunification the present economic and supply difficulties will be overcome more easily with the help of the greater industrial and economic capacities of West Germany.

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